

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been amended in an effort to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112

The rejection of claims 1 and 2under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryder, cited, in view of DE 19852482, the secondary reference, is respectfully traversed. As disclosed by applicants and recited in claim 1, the bearing eye surface is processed for a precise fit to a circular cylinder **before** the anti-friction coating is applied to the processed bearing eye surface **in a thickness corresponding to the final dimensions.** In contrast to this (see method claims 8-12), Ryder coats the surface with (several layers of) anti-friction coating and **then** reduces this coating to "required dimensions" by "mechanical operations." This is exactly what applicants' claimed method avoids. Thus, nothing in Ryder suggests to process the bearing eye surface for a precise fit to a circular cylinder before applying thereto a coating which has a thickness corresponding to the final dimensions.

While the secondary reference teaches a coating of alternate layers of layers of a softer material and a harder material, with the hardness increasing continuously from its surface, it was not obvious at the time the present invention

was made to modify Ryder in this manner since the Ryder patent in lines 47-50, page 2, left column, states that "it is desirable to provide a bearing material containing two or more constituents of somewhat different characteristics. In such a case, it has been found highly desirable that all of the constituent elements of the bearing material should be present in the surface of the bearings." Thus, Ryder contradicts the claimed feature that "the proportion of the softer alloy component in the deposited alloy (is) increased with increasing coating thickness."

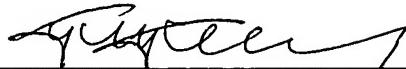
In view of the above, the combination proposed by the Examiner is respectfully submitted to be contrary to the statutory requirements and, if made, does not lead to the claimed method. Accordingly, claim 1 is respectfully submitted to be patentable, and claims 2 and 3 are believed to be allowable therewith.

A petition for a one-month extension for filing a response is attached hereto.

A sincere effort having been made to overcome all grounds of rejection, favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 to 3 are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Petition for extension of time

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP Amendment, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 3, 2006.



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